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LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the statement by the Government of the Republic of Guyana on the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

I should be grateful if this statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. R. INSANALLY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 25 January 1991 by the Government of the Republic of Guyana on the conflict in the Gulf

The Gulf war has now entered its second week and, from statements being made by military experts, could be prolonged for months.

The Government of Guyana has regretted deeply the outbreak of the war which can only lead to massive destruction of property, tragic loss of human life and untold human suffering. The war, moreover, will have severe consequences for the world economy, with vulnerable developing countries, like Guyana, being the most seriously affected.

The Government recalls that, at the time of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), then meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, had issued a joint statement denouncing the invasion of Kuwait by the armed forces of Iraq and calling for their immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

The Government had hoped the crisis would have been settled by peaceful means. Unhappily this has not been so.

The Government has supported the various United Nations Security Council resolutions that have as their objective the removal of Iraq's presence from Kuwait. In this regard, Guyana notes with appreciation the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The Government reiterates its strong support for the set of resolutions the Security Council has adopted since the start of the crisis.

The Government of Guyana wishes also to reiterate its long-standing and uncompromising position on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and to underscore the imperative of the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

As indicated earlier, the consequences of the war for developing countries are likely to be profound. In this regard Guyana faces the prospects of significantly increased acquisition costs for its oil prices. We will also have to contend with a range of consequential price increases. We will thus need to be more disciplined in the use of fuel products and in the management of all our resources.

The Government expresses the hope that, at this time of additional shocks to the domestic economy, arising from circumstances totally beyond its control, citizens would avoid any action that could disrupt production, undermine the export performance and retard the progress of our economic recovery programme.

In the mean time, the Government wishes to assure all citizens that it is taking all appropriate measures, including the making of arrangements with external friendly countries and international agencies to minimize the consequences of the war on our country's economy and the well-being of our citizens.